

16 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Geophysics Branch, OSI

THROUGH : Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence

SUBJECT : Soviet Plan to Warm up the Arctic Sea

1. In September 1955 Engineer-Colonel Aleksandr B. Markin, who has been identified with the Power Engineering Institute imeni Khrushchevskiy, Academy of Sciences USSR since 1949, proposed a program for the transformation of the frozen north of Asia, North America, and Europe into habitable areas with a temperate climate by means of pumping stations to pump warm water from the Pacific Ocean into the Arctic Ocean. Markin suggested that a huge dam be built across the 36-mile Bering Strait. Hundreds of huge pumps are to be placed along the dam, which would be powered by a 2,000,000-kilowatt power station.

2. The following quotation is made from the Markin proposal. "Each year this current would carry as much warmth into the Arctic Ocean as can be produced from ten billion tons of oil. This would greatly moderate the climate in the Arctic zone. Furthermore, by smashing the notorious Siberian anti-cyclone and eliminating the great masses of cold Arctic air, we would free not only Asia and North America, but also a part of Europe from the frigid breath of the Arctic.

"It would be something like discovering new continents with a mild European climate and wonderful natural resources. What is now a barren and frozen wilderness would blossom with fields and orchards and sparkle with myriads of electric lights. Thousands of new towns would spring up."

3. Other experiments with weather control suggested by the same author involves the reshaping of ocean bottoms and land surfaces. The thought is that parts of the earth would be erupted by man-made eruptions inside the earth's crust. This disturbance would create new lands and mountain ranges which in turn would change water and air currents and make new climates.

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4. The Markin proposal might ordinarily be regarded as another case of fantastic scientific endeavors by the Russians except for the fact that Markin is a highly reputed authority on power engineering and electricity in the Academy of Sciences. The extensive Russian literature in the field of weather control would seem to increase the probability that such an extensive plan for revamping the northern reaches is being seriously considered in the Academy of Sciences.

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Assistant to DD/I (Planning)

O/DD/I [REDACTED]:16 December 1955

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